

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 543

we projected then. I don't think this is a surprise to anyone that these costs are there and that it is ready to go on line within this next fiscal year. I believe that we should continue along the path we are and fund this...the staffing. Obviously, it's expensive and I guess you each have your own reasons as to why...why we have a necessity for prisons, but we do. And this has put us quite a ways down the road to relieve the overpopulation, if that's the term, overcrowding is the term, but we have dodged a federal lawsuit and I think it's appropriate that we take this up. These facilities are going to be adequate. There should be no problem with inspections, and I think it's...it would be due diligence...only be due diligence on our part to open, move along the stream with the training and with the opening of this. There has been...we actually took out just a little money early on so it's a fairly tight budget in opening that. I don't know that this one is specific to Tecumseh. It may well be, but we have stepped this in so that we're putting no more money than necessary in this first year, and the full funding the second year. And I believe it's adequate amount of money but it's as tight as we can do it and keep...keep the adequacy of the staffing. So I do oppose this amendment and urge you to do also.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, if this amendment were adopted, what would not be funded as a result?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm not sure whether yours is...it looks like to me it's in a general program so I think it might be spread across Corrections. I will...I will check that, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would it include staffing, do you think?